

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

**PROSPECTIVE CROP YIELDS
AUGUST 1 CROP REPORT
FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES
CASH RECEIPTS**

LOUISIANA PROSPECTIVE YIELDS

The August 1 crop prospects for Louisiana indicate that all major crop yields per acre will be up significantly from last year, with corn, rice, and sugarcane setting new record yields, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. The following are prospects for the major crops:

CORN production is forecast at 52.1 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. Acreage harvested for grain is forecast at 410,000, down 24 percent from 1998. Yield per acre at 127 bushels, is up 46 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. The record book on yield began in 1866.

COTTON production is forecast at 820,000 bales, up 28 percent from 1998. Acreage for harvest at 565,000 is 40,000 acres more than last year. Yield per acre at 697 pounds is 111 pounds more than in 1998.

RICE production at 31.6 million cwt., is up 12 percent from 1998. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 645,000, four percent above last year's figure. Yield per acre is forecast at 4,900 pounds per acre, 370 pounds more than in 1998. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. The record book on yield began in 1895.

SORGHUM production is forecast at 18.8 million bushels, compared to 7.5 million bushels last year. Acreage harvested for grain is forecast at 250,000, which is the highest acreage recorded since 1986, when 370,000 acres were harvested. Yield is forecast at 75 bushels per acre, an increase of 15 bushels from 1998.

SOYBEAN production is forecast at 30.3 million bushels, up 35 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 1,010,000, down six percent from 1998. Yield, forecast at 30 bushels per acre, is 9 bushels more than in 1998.

SUGARCANE production for sugar and seed is forecast at 14.9 million net tons, up 2 percent from 1998. If realized, this will be the highest acreage, yield, and production ever recorded in the State. Yield per acre is forecast at 33 net tons, up 3.3 net tons from last year. Recording of acreage, yield, and production began in 1909.

HAY production is forecast at 864,000 tons, up 19 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 360,000, up 30,000 acres from 1998. Yield at 2.4 tons per acre is up 0.2 tons from 1998.

U. S. PROSPECTIVE YIELDS

CORN: Acreage planted to corn is estimated at 77.6 million acres, unchanged from the June estimate, but down 3 percent from last year. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 71.0 million acres, down 84,000 acres from June. Grain acreage was lowered in several mid-Atlantic States due to drought conditions. An additional acreage change was made in Michigan since their crop has advanced rapidly under ideal conditions, and farmers expect to harvest a larger percentage of their acreage for grain. The August 1 Corn Objective Yield data indicated a record level stalk count for the seven objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin). After a wet start, corn planting progressed rapidly in early-May. Iowa and Illinois planted half of their corn acreage in one week, as progress moved ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures in June, and July provided plenty of growing degree days, and pushed silking ahead of both 1998 and the average. In the northern and western Corn Belt, numerous storms provided enough rainfall to maintain adequate soil moisture, and prevent serious heat damage to the crop.

SORGHUM FOR GRAIN: The first production forecast for the 1999 crop year is 588 million bushels, up 13 percent from 1998, but 7 percent below 1997. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is forecasted at 69.2 bushels per acre, up 1.9 bushels from 1998. Yield increases are expected in 12 of the top 18 producing States, mainly in the southern part of the growing area. The forecasted yield in Texas would be a new record high. Predicted yields in Mississippi and Georgia would equal record high yields. A 7 bushel decrease from last year in Kansas (the largest sorghum producing state) limited the increase in the U.S. forecast. Acreage expected to be harvested for grain in the U.S. in 1999, at 8.50 million acres, is 10 percent higher than the 1998 harvested grain acreage. An adjustment to the harvested acres estimated in the June "Acreage" report was made for Texas due to the increase in planted acreage. Texas producers expect to harvest 2.9 million acres for grain, 200,000 more than estimated in June.

ALL HAY production for 1999 is forecast at a record high 160.8 million tons, up 6 percent from 1998, and 5 percent higher than 1997. The all hay yield is forecast at 2.59 tons per acre (also a record), up 3 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest of all hay is estimated at 62.1 million acres, 3 percent higher than 1998. This is an increase of 100,000 acres from the June estimate as a result of an increase in the other hay estimate in North Dakota. Hay producers across the country are seeing both extremes this year. Operators in the Atlantic Coast States, and eastern Corn Belt have been hit hard by the extreme dry conditions, and higher than normal temperatures. Northwestern States have seen dry conditions stress non-irrigated hay; however, conditions have been good for the irrigated acreage. Most other areas of the U.S. have enjoyed very good conditions for hay production. Southern States, which were hit hard by drought last year, have rebounded well this year.

RICE production is forecast at a record high 214 million cwt., 14 percent above 1998, and up 17 percent from 1997. Area for harvest is expected to total 3.58 million acres, unchanged from the June "Acreage" report, but 8 percent above a year ago. Yields are expected

to average 5,993 pounds per acre, up 324 pounds from 1998. As of August 1, crop development was behind normal in Arkansas, California, and Mississippi, while Louisiana and Texas crop was ahead of normal. Rice harvest is underway in Louisiana and Texas. Crop condition was rated at 77 percent good to excellent across the major producing states on August 1.

SOYBEANS: Area planted, at 74.1 million acres, was decreased fractionally from the June acreage estimate, and is now 2 percent above 1998 record acreage. Acres expected for harvest, at 73.3 million acres, decreased slightly from June, and is now 3 percent above the 1998 acreage. Planting of the 1999 soybean crop was nearly complete as of June 27, as 97 percent had been planted. This compares to 96 percent a year ago, and 94 percent for the five-year average. Several states (Kansas, Missouri, North Carolina, and South Carolina) still lagged behind the rest of the country in finishing planting at the end of June. Some replanting of soybean fields was common in areas affected by heavy rains and standing water. In the eight major producing States (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio), the average planting date was the same as last year. The eastern Corn Belt States completed planting with the fewest weather disruptions, while the western Corn Belt States were delayed by wet conditions.

UPLAND COTTON planted acreage, at 14.3 million acres, is 9 percent above 1998. Harvested acreage, at 13.2 million acres, is up 26 percent from last year, when extremely dry conditions resulted in high abandonment. Growers planted 318,200 acres of **American-Pima** cotton. Area to be harvested is 316,200 acres, up 35 percent from last year.



The Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) rated most of their cotton acreage in fair to excellent condition in early August. Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi all rated over 90 percent of their crop in these categories, while Missouri and Tennessee lag slightly behind, having rated only 78 and 82 percent, respectively, in the fair to excellent category. Crop development has been near or above the 5-year average throughout the growing season. On August 1, nearly all fields were setting bolls. Arkansas reported 97 percent of the fields setting bolls, while Louisiana, and Missouri reported virtually all fields having set bolls. Mississippi reported 98 percent, and Tennessee lagged slightly behind with 93 percent of the fields setting bolls. Cotton Objective Yield data show large boll counts for Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi as the fourth largest in the past 10 years. Arkansas' count of small bolls was fourth highest during this time period, while Mississippi, and Louisiana small boll counts rank fifth and sixth, respectively.

SUGARCANE production is forecast at a record high 36.6 million tons, 16 percent above the previous record of 31.7 million tons set last year. U.S. sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 972,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 1999 crop year, 3 percent more than last year's final harvested acres. The record high acreage is due to a 15,000 acre expansion in Louisiana, and a 9,000 acre increase in Florida. The expansion in Louisiana is due to increased use of a new high-yielding variety that can be harvested mechanically even if it is severely lodged. Yield is forecast at 37.7 tons per acre, 3.0 tons above 1998. In Louisiana, a record high yield is expected due to ideal growing conditions, increased acreage of high yielding variety, and increased utilization of more efficient harvester. Warm weather and frequent rains have provided nearly ideal conditions in Florida also. Dry weather has prevailed in Hawaii, but no significant impact on yields has been experienced at this time. However, new plantings have been curtailed.

AUGUST 1 CROP REPORT, WITH COMPARISONS

	Acreage for Harvest		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1998	Ind. 1999	Unit	Final 1998	Ind. 1999	Unit	Final 1998	Ind. 1999
LOUISIANA	-----Thousand Acres-----					-----Thousand-----		
Cotton, All	525	565	Pounds	586	697	Bales 1/	641	820
Corn, Grain	540	410	Bushels	81	127	Bushels	43,740	52,070
Wheat, Winter 2/	90	110	Bushels	44	47	Bushels	3,960	5,170
Sorghum, Grain	125	250	Bushels	60	75	Bushels	7,500	18,750
Rice	620	645	Pounds	4,530	4,900	Cwt.	28,107	31,605
Sugarcane 3/	435	450	Net Tons	29.7	33.0	Net Tons	12,920	14,850
Hay, All	330	360	Tons	2.2	2.4	Tons	726	864
Soybeans, Beans	1,070	1,010	Bushels	21.0	30.0	Bushels	22,470	30,300
UNITED STATES	-----Thousand Acres-----					-----Million-----		
Cotton, All	10,683.6	13,532.2	Pounds	625	649	Bales 1/	13.9	18.3
Corn, Grain	72,604	70,955	Bushels	134.4	134.7	Bushels	9,761.1	9,560.9
Wheat, Winter 2/	40,126	35,609	Bushels	46.9	47.4	Bushels	1,880.6	1,688.6
Sorghum, Grain	7,723	8,499	Bushels	67.3	69.2	Bushels	519.9	588.0
Rice	3,317	3,575	Pounds	5,669	5,993	Cwt.	188.1	214.2
Sugarcane 3/	947.1	972.5	Net Tons	36.6	37.7	Net Tons	34.7	36.6
Hay, All	60,016	62,051	Tons	2.52	2.59	Tons	151.3	160.8
Soybeans, Beans	70,811	73,261	Bushels	38.9	39.2	Bushels	2,756.8	2,869.5

1/ 480 lbs net weight. 2/ Estimate carried forward from earlier forecast. 3/ For sugar and seed.

UNITED STATES PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES UP SLIGHTLY IN 1998

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled \$183.6 billion in 1998, up 0.2 percent from the revised 1997 total of \$183.2 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were; trucks and autos, up 15.8 percent; tractors and self propelled farm machinery, up 11.1 percent; seed and plants, up 7.5 percent; and farm improvements and construction, up 5.7 percent. These increases were partially offset by decreases in; fuels, down 10.0 percent; rent, down 6.3 percent; and feed, down 4.9 percent. The largest two expenditure categories were feed and farm services; each accounted for 13.6 percent of U.S. total production expenses. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

Average expenditures per U.S. farm in 1998 were \$83,987 compared to \$83,856, as revised for 1997. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 1998 spent \$11,439 on feed; \$11,439 on farm services; \$7,916 on rent; \$8,694 on labor; and \$6,498 on livestock and poultry purchases. Revised estimates for 1997 indicated that U.S. farms spent an average of \$12,040 on feed; \$11,307 on farm services; \$8,455 on rent; \$8,377 on labor; and \$6,500 for livestock and poultry purchases.

FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES: Major Input Items by Value and Percent of Total, United States, 1997-98 1/

Expenditure-Farm Share	Total Expenditures				Farms Reporting		Average per Farm 11/	
	1997		1998		1997	1998	1997	1998
	Million Dols	Percent	Million Dols	Percent	Percent		Dollars	
Total Farm Production Expenditures 2/ 3/	183,180	100.0	183,550	100.0	100.0	100.0	83,856	83,987
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses 4/	14,200	7.8	14,200	7.7	27.8	29.8	6,500	6,498
Feed	26,300	14.4	25,000	13.6	65.1	66.6	12,040	11,439
Farm Services 5/	24,700	13.5	25,000	13.6	96.9	96.2	11,307	11,439
Rent 6/	18,470	10.1	17,300	9.4	38.0	36.4	8,455	7,916
Agricultural Chemicals 7/	9,000	4.9	9,100	5.0	55.0	57.3	4,120	4,164
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners 7/	10,900	6.0	10,600	5.8	65.2	64.9	4,990	4,850
Interest	10,500	5.7	10,800	5.9	47.0	48.2	4,807	4,942
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	6,650	3.6	7,000	3.8	97.7	99.2	3,044	3,203
Labor	18,300	10.0	19,000	10.4	39.0	40.5	8,377	8,694
Fuels	6,000	3.3	5,400	2.9	89.2	86.3	2,747	2,471
Farm Supplies & Repairs 8/	12,300	6.7	12,200	6.6	90.3	88.5	5,631	5,582
Farm Improvements & Construction 9/	6,100	3.3	6,450	3.5	51.5	51.9	2,792	2,951
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	5,400	2.9	6,000	3.3	13.3	14.5	2,472	2,745
Other Farm Machinery	3,410	1.9	3,550	1.9	19.6	23.0	1,561	1,624
Seed & Plants 10/	6,700	3.7	7,200	3.9	53.1	54.5	3,067	3,295
Trucks & Autos	3,800	2.1	4,400	2.4	16.1	17.7	1,740	2,013

1/ Excludes AK and HI.

2/ Total includes production costs not allocated to any of the 16 expense categories published.

3/ Includes landlord and contractor share of farm production expenses.

4/ Includes purchases and leasing of livestock and poultry.

5/ Includes all crop custom work, veterinary services, custom feeding, transportation costs, marketing charges, insurance, leasing of machinery and equipment, miscellaneous business expenses, and utilities.

6/ Includes public and private grazing fees.

7/ Includes material and application costs.

8/ Includes bedding and litter, marketing containers, power farm shop equipment, misc. non-capital equipment and supplies, repairs and maintenance of livestock and poultry equipment and capital equipment for livestock and poultry.

9/ Includes all expenditures related to new construction or repairs of buildings and fences and any improvements to physical structures or land.

10/ Excludes bedding plants, nursery stock, and seed purchased for resale. Includes seed treatment.

11/ Number of farms reporting item divided by total number of farms.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES:
LOUISIANA, 1996-1998

COMMODITY	1996	1997	1998
	----Thousand Dollars----	----Thousand Dollars----	----Thousand Dollars----
All Commodities	2,238,166	2,168,288	1,890,624
Total Crops	1,638,987	1,509,638	1,245,131
Soybeans	227,830	257,150	151,532
Rice	268,951	277,236	265,957
Cotton (Lint & Seed)	492,731	357,290	251,795
Sugarcane	271,986	302,620	334,733
Sweet Potatoes	43,836	48,600	30,457
Winter Wheat	27,333	16,032	11,317
Pecans	7,400	6,600	10,800
Corn	184,947	131,998	88,872
All Hay	14,925	19,262	15,947
Sorghum Grain	26,134	17,583	12,809
All Other Crops	309,378	341,118	374,778
Total Livestock & Products	689,179	658,650	645,493
Dairy Products	133,326	111,397	119,556
Cattle & Calves	106,058	143,975	153,810
Aquaculture	60,435	58,688	51,961
Eggs	38,319	34,807	33,567
Hogs	9,918	6,972	4,339
All Other Livestock & Products	341,123	302,811	290,938

SOURCE: State Financial Summary, Economic Research Service, USDA.

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